

RETAIN Phase 2 Transition

Talking Points for Phase 2 Non-Awardee States

The following talking points are intended to help you communicate with stakeholders about your future stay-at-work (SAW)/return-to-work (RTW) efforts. They are optional for you to use, and may be revised or edited as needed. These offer a starting point for your communications and indicate where you can tailor messages to best reflect your state's program. Talking points can be used for various communication platforms that include, but are not limited to,

- internal newsletter article discussing planned future SAW/RTW efforts or the wrap-up of the program,
- memo to program staff following initial discussion about the program's status and next steps,
- memo to participating providers about the program's status and next steps,
- memo to participating employers about the program's status and next steps,
- talking points for RTW coordinators to talk with potential participants who express interest in participating,
- talking points for RTW coordinators to tell existing participants about the program's status and next steps,
- email or letter to inform existing participants about the program's status and next steps, and
- email or talking points for other stakeholders that are not formal partners, providers or employers but have an interest in your state's RETAIN efforts.

Talking Points:

- Although we are disappointed that we were not selected to participate in Phase 2 of the U.S. Department of Labor's RETAIN initiative, we are proud of the achievements we made in Phase 1.
- Stay-at-work/return-to-work strategies are a priority for [STATE], as they are critical to help meet [STATE]'s workforce needs and to move the needle forward on disability employment.
- [STATE TO ADD IF APPLICABLE] Acknowledging the many impacts of COVID-19 on [STATE]'s health, economy, and workforce—innovative SAW/RTW [strategies/programs] have never more critical to the livelihood of our stakeholders and partners.
- We made great progress by [STATE TO ADD].
 - [EXAMPLE] Number of participants served and within a designated time frame or geographic area
 - [EXAMPLE] Acknowledgment of work with new partners across sectors and citing core partners by name
 - [EXAMPLE] Increases awareness of SAW/RTW and the value for both individuals and workforce/economy/sector

- [OPTION 1 for STATE TO ADD] Our plans and priorities for continued work in this area include:
 - [FOR STATE TO COMPLETE]
- [OPTION 2 for STATE TO ADD] In the next few [STATE ADD TIMEFRAME] we will determine our options and next steps for [STATE] RETAIN. These may include:
 - [FOR STATE TO COMPLETE]
- As we build on our progress, we believe we have the right partners assembled to help [STATE]’s labor force retain its greatest asset—its workers—and effect lasting change.

The following additional talking points are intended only for internal program audiences:

- We appreciate all the support you provided to propel our program through Phase 1—please know that your efforts were not in vain, as we made great progress.
- In the next few weeks, our state team, partners, and [OTHER GOVERNING BODY] will review and discuss our next steps. These may include:
 - [FOR STATE TO COMPLETE]
- We look forward to continuing to work together, as we are poised to make progress.